

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are submitted to provide antecedent basis for the claimed terms. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made." Favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

5 Claim 14 has been amended as follows:

14. (Amended) A method for quantifying the protein according
to claim 1, the protein according to claim 2, the partial
peptide according to claim 6 or a salt thereof, which
10 comprises allowing a test solution containing the protein
according to claim 1, the protein according to claim 2, the
partial peptide according to claim 6 or a salt thereof and
the ~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 1 which is labeled,
the ~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 2 which is labeled,
15 the ~~labeled~~ partial peptide according to claim 6 which is
labeled or a ~~labeled~~ salt thereof which is labeled to react
competitively with the antibody according to claim 13.

Claim 19 has been amended as follows:

20 19. (Amended) A method for screening a compound or a salt
thereof inhibiting or promoting a binding of the protein
according to claim 1, the protein according to claim 2, the
partial peptide according to claim 6 or a salt thereof to
25 activin receptors or activin intracellular information
transmission molecules, which comprises comparing the case
where the ~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 1 which is
labeled, the ~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 2 which is
labeled, the ~~labeled~~ partial peptide according to claim 6
30 which is labeled or a ~~labeled~~ salt thereof which is labeled
is contacted with activin receptors or activin intracellular
information transmission molecules, with the case where the
~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 1 which is labeled, the
~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 2 which is labeled, the
35 ~~labeled~~ partial peptide according to claim 6 which is labeled
or a ~~labeled~~ salt thereof which is labeled and a test
compound are contacted with activin receptors or activin
intracellular information transmission molecules, by

measuring the amount of the ~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 1 which is labeled, the ~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 2 which is labeled, the ~~labeled~~ partial peptide according to claim 6 which is labeled or a ~~labeled~~ salt thereof which is labeled bound to the activin receptors or activin intracellular information transmission molecules in both the cases.

Claim 20 has been amended as follows:

20. (Amended) A method for screening a compound or a salt thereof inhibiting or promoting a binding of the protein according to claim 1, the protein according to claim 2, the partial peptide according to claim 6 or a salt thereof to the protein according to claim 17 or a salt thereof, which comprises comparing the case where the ~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 1 which is labeled, the ~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 2 which is labeled, the ~~labeled~~ partial peptide according to claim 6 which is labeled or a ~~labeled~~ salt thereof which is labeled is contacted with the protein according to claim 17 or a salt thereof, with the case where the ~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 1 which is labeled, the ~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 2 which is labeled or a ~~labeled~~ salt thereof which is labeled and a test compound are contacted with the protein according to claim 17 or a salt thereof, by measuring the amount of the ~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 1 which is labeled, the ~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 2 which is labeled, the ~~labeled~~ partial peptide according to claim 6 which is labeled or a ~~labeled~~ salt thereof which is labeled bound to the protein according to claim 17 or a salt thereof in both the cases.

Claim 22 has been amended as follows:

^{Twice}
22. (Amended) A method for screening a compound or a salt thereof inhibiting or promoting a binding of the protein according to claim 1, the protein according to claim 2, the partial peptide according to claim 6 or a salt thereof to the

protein according to claim 17 or a salt thereof, activin receptors or activin intracellular information transmission molecules, which comprises comparing the case where the ~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 1 which is labeled, the

5 ~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 2 which is labeled, the ~~labeled~~ partial peptide according to claim 6 which is labeled or a ~~labeled~~ salt thereof which is labeled is contacted with a membrane fraction of cells expressing the protein according to claim 17 or a salt thereof, activin receptors or activin

10 intracellular information transmission molecules, with the case where the ~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 1 which is labeled, the ~~labeled~~ protein according to claim 2 which is labeled, the ~~labeled~~ partial peptide according to claim 6 which is labeled or a ~~labeled~~ salt thereof which is labeled

15 and a test compound are contacted with a membrane fraction of cells expressing the protein according to claim 17 or a salt thereof, activin receptors or activin intracellular information transmission molecules, by measuring the amount of the protein according to claim 1 which is labeled, the

20 protein according to claim 2 which is labeled, the partial peptide according to claim 6 which is labeled or a salt thereof which is labeled bound to the membrane fraction of the cells in both the cases.